United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England
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January 12, 2004

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S. Messur, BBL
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K. Munney, US Fish and Wildlife
R. Cataldo, ENSR
R. Nasman, The Berkshire Gas Company
Mayor Ruberto, City of Pittsfield
Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities, City of Pittsfield
Public Information Repositories

RE: December 2003 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the December 2003 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.
Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

1. Overview

During December 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc., and Weston's subcontractors continued remediation activities on the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. The primary work included tree clearing on riverbanks in Cells 14 and 15, the installation of the anchored retaining wall in Cell 14E, and the initiation of the installation of the tie-back anchors for the anchored retaining wall. Also, re-grading of lots on Parcels I8-10-2 and I8-10-3 for additional parking and access to the river was completed. In addition, a transfer of NAPL-impacted materials from the stockpile management areas to approved off-site facilities was completed.

2. Chronological description of tasks performed

Refer to Figure 1 for an orientation of the excavation cells and their respective locations.

By the end of November 2003, in support of the EPA, GE's contractors completed the demolition of two houses on Parcels I8-10-2 and I8-10-3. EPA's contractors initiated re-grading of the area for additional parking and access to the river. During the first week of December, the re-grading of the two lots was completed and the area was set up and opened to use as an additional parking lot.

Tree clearing, grubbing and chipping activities were initiated on the riverbanks in Cells 14 and 15. All the wood chips were transported to the Lyman Street staging area.

The installation of the anchored sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 14E was initiated.

Construction activities associated with building an access ramp into the river for the 600 feet below the Elm Street Bridge (Phase II) were completed on the west riverbank of Cell 13.

Also, during the first week in December, in support of the EPA, GE's contractors completed the installation of the asphalt berm around the recently paved 22,000 square foot area on GE's property in the 60's complex. EPA will use this area as an outside contaminated material stockpile management area. Also, GE's contractors completed the installation of the temporary fence along the riverbanks in the first 600 feet of Phase II.

Miscellaneous site clean up, equipment and water treatment system maintenance activities continued during the first week in December. Maintenance and cleaning of the trash racks and the anti freezing air bubbling system for the temporary dam was completed.

During the second week of December, tree clearing, grubbing and chipping activities continued in Cells 14 and 15.

The installation of the anchored sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 14E was completed. Bedrock was encountered in several locations of the retaining wall and the sheetpile could not be driven to grade. The anchoring plan was then prepared to address the different sheetpile embedment depths.

The Survey Subcontractor delineated and staked out the cross section stations along the Cell 14 centerline and continued to layout riverbank excavation limits in Cell 14.

During the third week of December, all the sheetpile comprising the wall were cut to elevation 988. Excavation of approximately top three feet of non-TSCA riverbank soils in Cell 14E along the anchored sheetpile retaining wall was performed to allow for the installation of the tie-back anchors.

Tree clearing, grubbing and chipping activities on the riverbanks in Cells 14 and 15 were completed. All the wood chips were transported to the Lyman Street staging area.

In anticipation of the two–week Holiday break, the stop logs were removed from the temporary dam.

Miscellaneous site clean up activities continued, due to a heavy snowstorm on December 13 and 14 snow removal activities were performed throughout the site and the access roads. Maintenance and cleaning of the trash racks for the temporary dam was completed.

During the fourth and the fifth week of December, most of the site activities were associated with preparing the site for the two-week Holiday break. Site clean up activities continued, snow removal was performed throughout the site and the access roads. Water treatment system maintenance activities were preformed.

The installation of the tie-back anchors into the anchored sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 14E was initiated.

Since there were no sediment excavation activities during the month of December, the water treatment system did not treat any water. Therefore the monthly sampling of the water treatment system for the month of December was not necessary. Air monitoring for particulate matter (PM10 sampling) and surface water turbidity monitoring was performed on a daily basis. The monthly PCB air-monitoring event was completed on December 17, 2003. Surface water sampling for total suspended solids (TSS) and PCBs was performed on December 03 and December 17, 2003. Sampling of Common Fill for Phase II for chemical parameters was performed on December 01, 2003. PCB wipe samples were collected on decontaminated equipment.

In-situ disposal characterization sampling of riverbanks within the remediation areas in Cell 14E in the first 600 feet of Phase II was completed. Two eight-point composite samples were collected on December 01, 2003 for future offsite disposal.

Geotechnical samples were collected for Common Fill and visual inspections were completed on the 9-inch, 12-inch and 18-inch riprap. The results of the geotechnical testing and the visual

inspections are not included in the monthly report but are contained in other submittals and are available upon request.

The majority of Cell 13 NAPL-impacted materials from the Building 68 stockpile management area were transported to the Seneca Meadows Landfill, Waterloo, N.Y. for landfilling from December 08 to December 16, 2003. (See Table 4 for a summary of material transported to the Seneca Meadows Landfill, Waterloo, N.Y. during the month of December 2003). The rest of the Cell 13 NAPL-impacted materials were transported from December 11 to December 16, 2003 to the Waste Management of New Hampshire-TREE, Rochester, NH. (See Table 5 for a summary of material transported to the Waste Management of New Hampshire-TREE, Rochester, NH during the month of December 2003).

The utility companies, Western Mass Electric, Verizon Telephone Company, and Time Warner Cable continued the utility relocation work required on Elm Street and High Street to perform Phase II remediation activities.

Conditions monitoring surveys of the parking lot and the building on Parcel I8-10-4 as well as the utility poles located along the Elm Street and High Street in the 600 feet of Phase II were completed. The settlement monitoring points were also established and pre-construction elevations recorded on both the parking lot and the building on Parcel I8-10-4 and the utility poles located along the Elm Street and High Street in the 600 feet of Phase II

The vibration monitoring activities continued on parcel I8-10-5. Two monitoring locations were established in the active work area, one to monitor the crib wall and the parking lot and the other to monitor the building located on the parcel. (See Figure 1 for the locations of the Vibration Monitors).

Traffic control was conducted periodically on Lyman Street and High Street during the month of December.

3. Sampling/test results received

Analytical results for backfill materials are summarized in Table 6. This includes the sampling results for Structural Fill samples collected on October 14, 2003 and results for Common Fill samples collected on December 01, 2003. The results of the daily particulate air monitoring program are summarized in Table 7. Table 8 is a summary of daily turbidity monitoring results. Results for PCB and TSS samples and water column monitoring data collected on November 19, 2003 and December 03, 2003 are presented in Table 9. PCB and TSS results for water monitoring samples collected on December 17, 2003 are not yet available. A summary of samples collected for the air sampling on December 17, 2003 is provided in Table 10; however the PCB data for the samples is not yet available. Table 11contains PCB data associated with the decontaminated equipment confirmatory wipe samples. Table 12 presents the analytical data associated with in-situ disposal characterization sampling of riverbanks within the remediation areas in Cells 14 and 15 performed on November 24, November 25, and December 01, 2003.

4. Diagrams associated with the tasks performed

Figure 1 is a map of Phase I and the beginning of Phase II and includes layout of all excavation cells, temporary dam, lot parcel identification numbers, water monitoring locations, air sampling locations, vibration monitoring locations, access road locations, fence line location, the water treatment system pad location, the effluent discharge location, and the utility trench location.

5. Reports received and prepared

Weston received a vibration monitoring summary report for the period of December 02, 2003 to January 05, 2004 from Vibra-Tech, Inc. During this period, two seismographs were set up on Parcel I8-10-5. One unit was set up to monitor the parking lot and the top of the crib wall and the other unit was set up to monitor the building located on the parcel. Both units were set up to collect data on the continuous seismic mode. Activities occurring near the two monitoring locations during this period included normal background activities, the installation of a sheetpile retaining wall and the tie-back anchors for the wall, as well as general construction activities. All of the ground vibrations measured complied with the project specifications with two exceptions at the crib wall and three at the building location. The three readings in question at the building location were not consistent with construction activities and did not correspond to readings at the crib wall monitoring location. As a result these three readings were most likely due to human interference. Immediately after observing the two high readings at the crib wall location all sheetpile installation activities were terminated. It was determined that the elevated readings were a result of an attempt to install the final sheetpile adjacent to the crib wall. The sheepile was found to be encountering the crib wall structure therefore further installation was terminated. Since EPA is planning on re-enforcing the crib wall structure in early 2004, the two elevated readings were determined not to be a significant issue.

6. Photo documentation of activities performed

See attached photos.

7. Brief description of work to be performed in January 2004

- Continue utility relocation activities on the riverbanks from Elm Street Bridge to Dawes Avenue Bridge.
- Complete the installation of the tie-back anchors for the anchored sheetpile wall in Cell 14E riverbank.
- Complete riverbed and riverbank excavation activities in Cell 14W.
- Initiate backfill activities in Cell 14W.
- Initiate the re-enforcement activities of the crib wall and the parking lot on Parcel I8-10-5.
- Initiate the installation of the cantilevered sheetpile retaining wall in Cell 15E.
- Continue stockpile management activities at Buildings 63, 65, 68 and the Area 64 (outside contaminated material stockpile area)
- Continue daily air and turbidity monitoring.
- Continue PCB air sampling (once a month), water column sampling (twice a month), water treatment system sampling (once a month) and backfill material sampling (as needed).
- Initiate vibration monitoring activities of the crib wall and the building on Parcel I8-10-5.

8. Attachments to this report

Table 1. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated During the Month of December

Table 2. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date

Table 3. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs to Date

Table 4. Quantity of NAPL-Impacted Material Transferred to Seneca Meadows Landfill, Waterloo, NY. During the Month of December

Table 5. Quantity of NAPL-Impacted Material Transferred to Waste Management of New Hampshire-TREE in Rochester, NH. During the Month of December

Table 6. Backfill Material Testing Results